



FLA NEWS



Volume 6 Issue 2

Florida Laryngectomee Association

www.f-l-a.org

Member IAL

July 2005

2005 Annual Meeting Registration - Agenda, Page 3

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The annual meeting this year will be in Orlando at the Sheraton Studio City Hotel on October 8 and 9, a Saturday and Sunday. A "first time" event this year will be Visitation training for FLA members. This will improve our pre and post operative visits to new laryngectomees. Our trainer will be Penny Fisher who developed the program in Tampa and then improved it in Miami. Penny is an RN with additional degrees including MS and CORLN. She is a clinical instructor in the Department of Otolaryngology at the Sylvester Cancer Center at the University of Miami Hospital. Penny has a very down to earth presentation with lots of helpful suggestions so that we don't offend the new laryngectomee or medical professionals. Remember how delicate your feelings were when you were a "Newbie". The visitation training will take place from 8AM to 12PM on Friday morning, so unless you live close by, you should plan to overnight on Thursday.

Next year for 2006 our Executive Committee has approved training for anti-tobacco education in schools and other venues. In many areas of the state, the trainer must be pre-approved at the school board level and not just by an individual teacher. Our State Clubs have been performing this valuable service for many years but some of our instructor volunteers are beginning to "slow down" due to health or other reasons. Now is the time to begin training of other volunteer instructors to ensure their valuable contributions are continued.

Carl Kilmer

Amy Jo Kiger, Secretary of FLA Passed Away June 2005

Amy Jo Kiger faithfully supported the Florida Laryngectomee Association and her local club, the Nu Voice Club of Daytona Beach. She served as secretary of the FLA for 6 years continuing as her health declined and in spite of pain and discomfort. She was the Vice President of the Nu Voice Club of Daytona Beach for 5 years. She participated in anti-tobacco presentations at schools and visited new laryngectomees. Amy Jo's small stature belied her strong will and dedication to laryngectomees. She played a key role in motivating members of her local club and of all who knew her. Her presence, her support and her spirit will be greatly missed.

Notice

Proposed Change to Bylaws

"Article VI Executive Committee, A. Membership: " Change 2nd sentence FROM "No more than two members of the Executive Committee shall be from the same club." TO.... "No more than three members of the Executive Committee shall be from the same club"

Editor's note; This serves as the advance notification requirement and will be presented for final adoption at special election in Orlando, Florida on Oct. 9, 2005. Full discussion will precede the formal vote. Advance comments may be submitted to any of the Officers. This change is intended to give the FLA greater flexibility in selecting normally hard to fill positions such as Treasurer and Secretary and to eliminate the frequent "catch 22" situation that occurs when the President's spouse becomes an Executive Committee member as the Auxiliary President. The FLA Bylaws may be viewed on our Website www.f-l-a.org at the bottom right of the Officers and Directors page. For a printed hard copy call or write President Carl Kilmer or Vice President Charles Blair. Addresses and phone numbers for each are in Officers column on page 2.

Jerry Hough resigns from Executive Committee

The following was sent by email to the FLA President and Executive Committee members on April 5, 2005.

“To Carl Kilmer, President As you know I am dealing with some medical issues that seem to be mounting. I felt confident that I could make the Interim Meeting of the Executive Committee, but now realize that it would be too much of a struggle. I am saddened that my health restricts my participation in FLA matters, but all good things must come to an end. Briefly, I attended my first FLA gathering in 1983 and have attended each annual meeting since then. My life has been enriched through the many people I have met along the laryngectomee road be it fellow traveler or professional. It seems that this is the moment to sit back and savor my memories and say thank you to all who have entered my life and those that may have brushed by me. Thank You! Sincerely, Jerry Hough”

Editor’s note: Jerry has served the laryngectomee community well having been one of a few (if not the only) U.S. laryngectomee having been President of his local, State and national clubs. His last and recent FLA position was Member at Large and he remains active in the Suncoast New Voice Club as its Secretary and Editor. Jerry and his lovely wife Mary Ann reside in Palm Harbor, Florida. Jerry, we wish you the best!

Larry Switzer FLA Webmaster Retires

The FLA website began as an idea with a lot of hope but little form until Larry agreed to take it on as a project. He provided the necessary information regarding domain registration and server access with the probable costs to set up and maintain the site. Most importantly, he built the site. He requested input from the FLA Executive Committee regarding the design and the content and then set to the task of coding the information into html format. The website, www.f-l-a.org was ready in the winter of 2001 thanks to Larry’s dedication and hard work.

In the Fall of 2003 Larry discovered he would have to deal with cancer again in the form of oral cancer. He endured the recommended chemo therapy protocols and participated in a Trial program for the P-53 Gene protocol. Through these treatments his symptoms waxed and waned but sadly persisted.

In March of this year, Larry asked the FLA to find someone to assume the duties of Webmaster so he would be able to help with the transition and make some personal decisions that included returning to Illinois to be closer to his family. With his encouragement, Nancy Blair agreed to learn the skills needed to maintain the website. Larry provided step-by-step instruction and remains accessible by email as a consultant.

Thank you, Larry, for establishing the FLA as a member of the internet community.

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New Executive Committee Member at Large Doyle “Butch” McMahan

Butch is about a six year laryngectomee, is very supportive of laryngectomee rehabilitation and a fan and promoter of both his local club as well as FLA. He is current President of the Chatterbox Club, attends all FLA Annual Meetings and does a lot of volunteer work. He is a tireless worker. Butch and his wife live in Plant City, the winter strawberry capital of the world. They do wonderful things with that berry and if they ever invite you to the Chatterbox club for strawberry shortcake – go! Welcome aboard, Butch.

SUMMER NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Club news for this issue is rather light since the annual summer hiatus is here again. Our records are admittedly suspect and perhaps out of date but we show the **Broward**, **Escambia** and **Marion County** clubs without a summer break and the following county clubs without specific confirmation of annual meeting status; **Indian River**, **Martin**, **Palm Beach**, and **Palm Beach VA**. These are currently documented as not having a summer break. Club members, please keep us updated on your meeting status. The new **Charlotte County** club is doing remarkably well and now has 3 successful monthly meetings under wraps. They are joining the summer hiatus list as well as the **Collier County** club. Judy Ramboldt President of the **Volusia County** club reports good and bad news; they are continuing to be a active and healthy club but recently lost 2 of their long time active members; Amy Jo Kiger, Club Vice President- FLA Secretary and Lyle Hathaway, long time club member and regular, loyal FLA Annual Meeting attendee. A sad, sad loss! Most of our clubs do a lot in support of ACS programs and each should be proud of their accomplishments since this directly and indirectly benefits the Florida laryngectomee. In this regard, the Escambia and Broward county clubs were extremely active in the recent ACS Relay for Life Program and generated substantial revenue for ACS programs. This is not to minimize the efforts of the other smaller clubs as all of us can make a valuable contribution to ACS and the rehabilitation of laryngectomees. From **Pinellas County Club**, Jerry Hough its Secretary and editor recently resigned from the FLA Executive Committee. Good news from **Hillsborough County**, **Butch McMahon**, Club President, has been appointed to the FLA Executive Committee to fulfill Jerry's uncompleted term. The best of luck to both Jerry and Butch. A final note: it is always sad to report the passing of any of our members and we recognize we can not list them all. We will try to list those that might be familiar to most of our readers. Clubs; Keep us posted on important club news! Thank you as you all are the backbone of FLA!



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